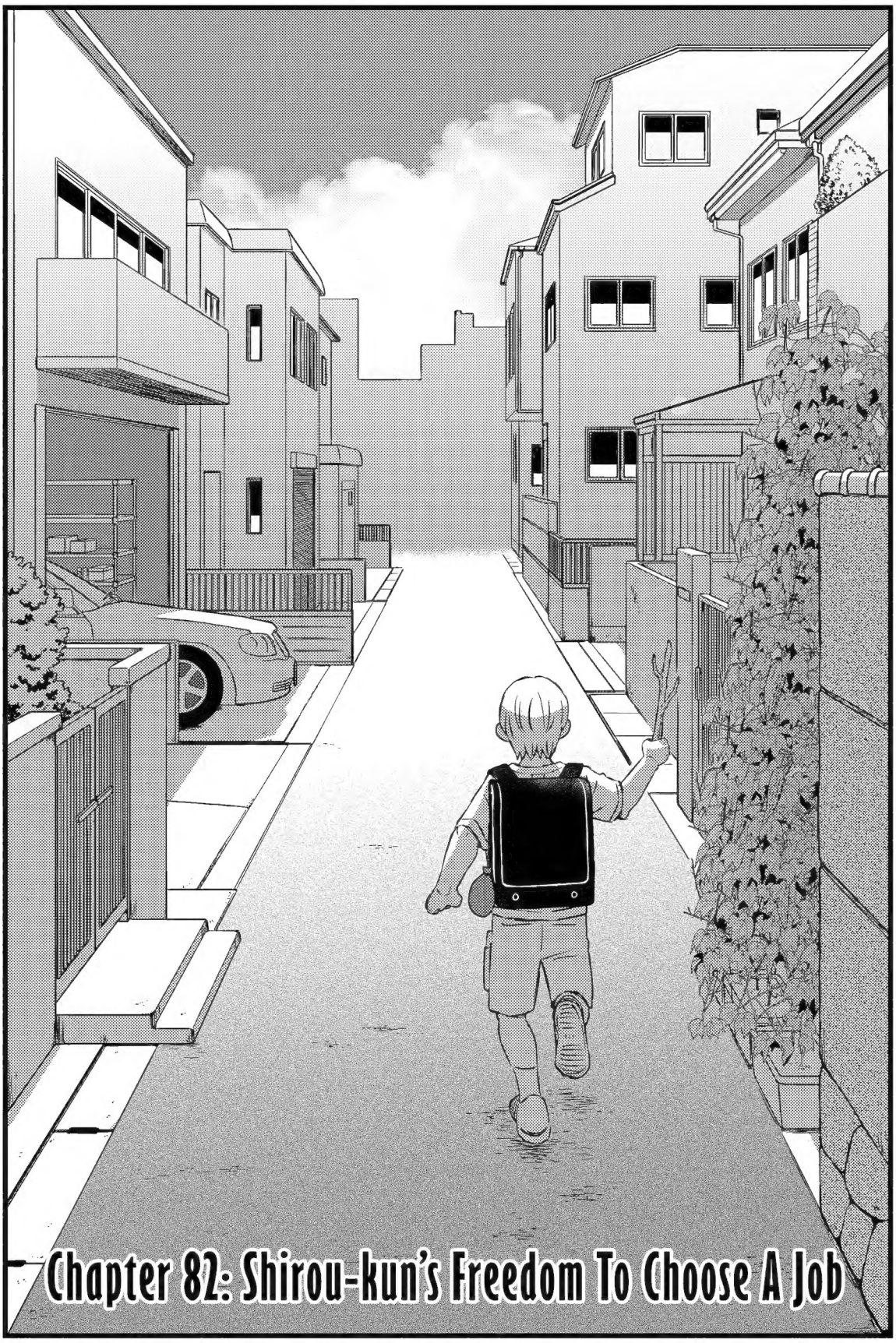
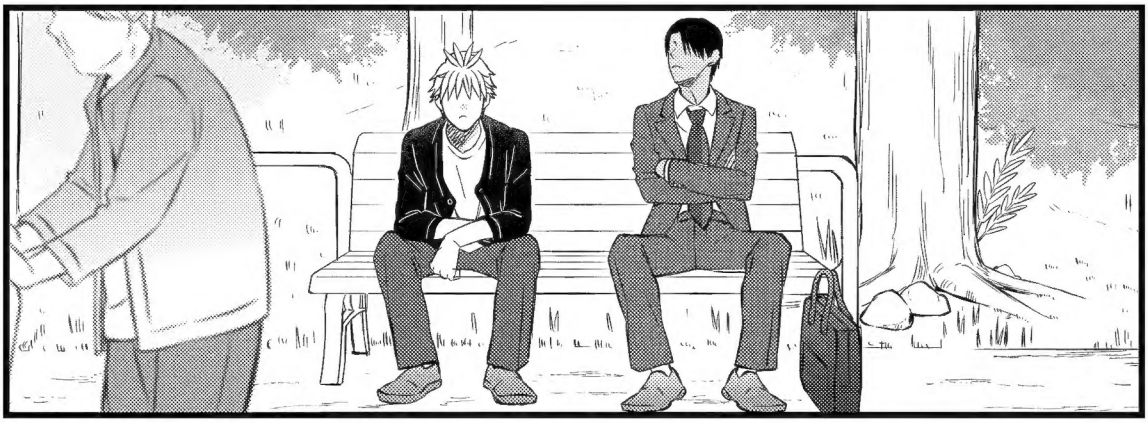
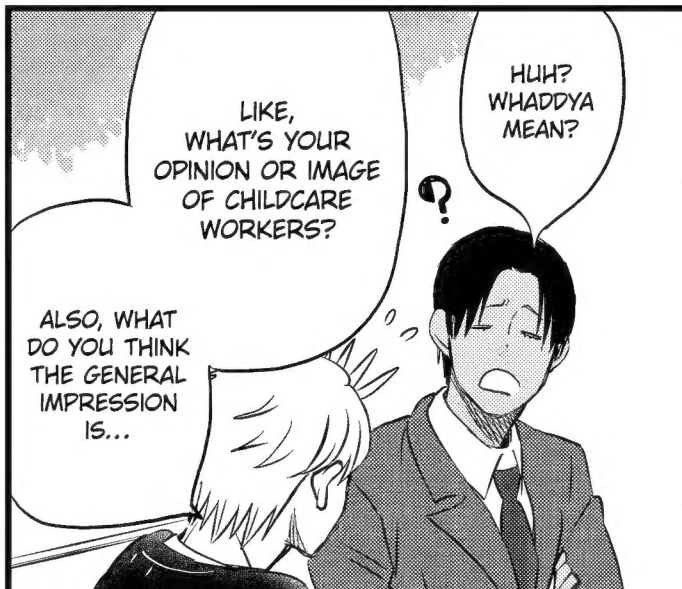


Chapter 82: Shirou-kun's Freedom To Choose A Job

HEY... WHAT DO YOU THINK OF CHILDCARE?



ME? WELL...
WHAT DO YA THINK?
I'M NOT SURE WHY YOU'RE ASKIN', BUT I RESPECT THEM A LOT FOR HELPIN' OTHERS WITH THEIR WORK.


HUH? WHADDYA MEAN?
LIKE, WHAT'S YOUR OPINION OR IMAGE OF CHILDCARE WORKERS?
ALSO, WHAT DO YOU THINK THE GENERAL IMPRESSION IS...

AND YET, THOSE PEOPLE...
IT'S REALLY, REALLY, REALLY NERVE-WRACKING, ISN'T IT?
I MEAN, NO MATTER HOW ADORABLE YOUR KID IS, TO LOOK AFTER THEM 24 HOURS A DAY...
OHH?
I THINK... IT'S AN AMAZING PROFESSION...!
THEY PUT THEM TO SLEEP! THEN PLAY WITH THEM AGAIN...!
THEY PLAY WITH THEM! THEY FEED THEM!
TAKE CARE OF LOTS OF CHILDREN AT THE SAME TIME FOR SEVERAL HOURS!
THAT SAID... DIDN'T YA WANT TO MEET WITH ME TODAY 'CAUSE YA WANTED ADVICE ABOUT GETTIN' A NEW JOB?
YEAH, YEAH. I AGREE.
THEY'RE SUPERHUMANS!

This is La La La!

GOT LAID-OFF.
↓
GIRLFRIEND DUMPED HIM.
↓
MET A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN AND GOT MARRIED.
↓
BECAME A HOUSEHUSBAND.
↓
BECAME A FATHER AFTER ADOPTING A BOY FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
↓
BECAME A FATHER OF TWO AFTER ALSO ADOPTING SAID BOY'S LITTLE SISTER.
↓
WANTS A NEW JOB.

I'M RIGHT HERE!!!

C'MON. UPDATE ME ON THE LATEST NEWS...

A one-panel explanation!

STILL... THERE'S A NEW CHANGE IN YOUR LIFE EVERY TIME WE MEET, MAN.

YEAH... THAT'S... MY INTENTION, BUT...

Mumble Mumble

DOESN'T TAKE A MIND READER WITH HOW OBVIOUS YA MADE IT.

NOOO! HOW DID YOU READ MY MIIIND?!

SO YA HAVE BEEN CONSIDERIN' WORKIN' IN CHILDCARE.

Bluuush...

HM, I SEE.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S BECAUSE OF THE GRATITUDE I FEEL TOWARDS THEM, OR THE FACT THAT PEOPLE LIKE THEM EXIST, BUT...

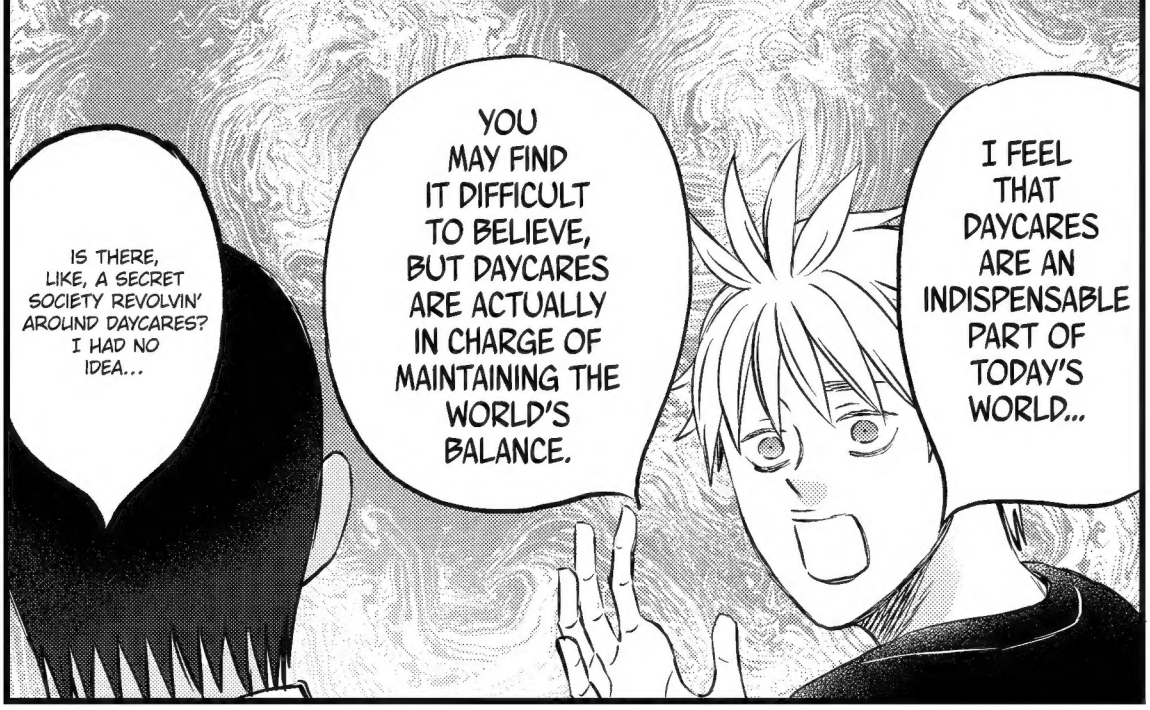
BESIDES, I WAS MOVED BY THE WORKERS AT MIU'S DAYCARE.

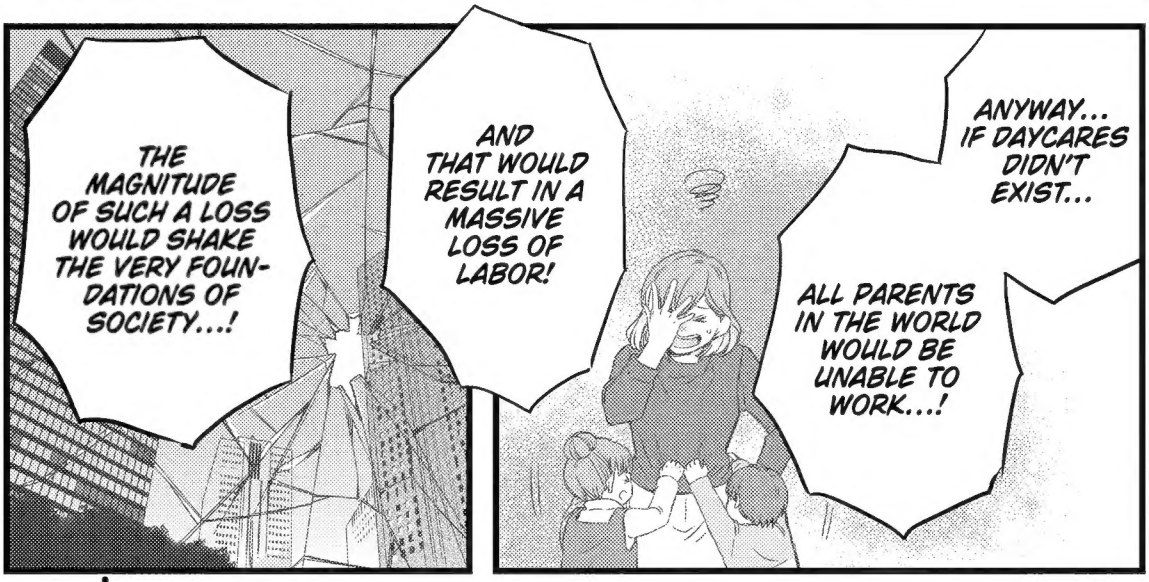
HMM... IT WAS A SURPRISE FOR ME, TOO. BUT YEAH, I GUESS I DO LIKE THEM QUITE A BIT.

They're cute...

DO YA LIKE KIDS THAT MUCH?

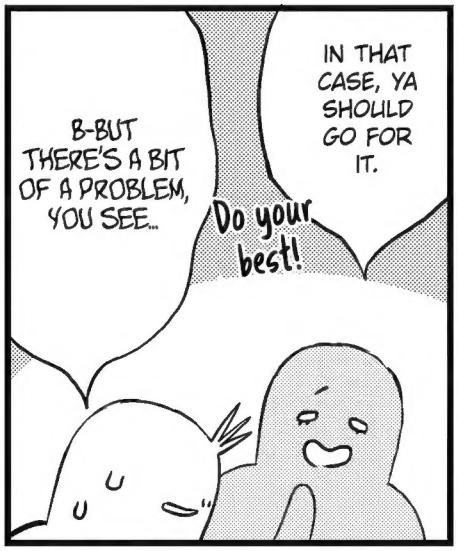
STILL, I'M SURPRISED THAT YA WANNA WORK IN CHILDCARE.


IS THERE, LIKE, A SECRET SOCIETY REVOLVIN' AROUND DAYCARES? I HAD NO IDEA...
YOU MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE, BUT DAYCARES ARE ACTUALLY IN CHARGE OF MAINTAINING THE WORLD'S BALANCE.
I FEEL THAT DAYCARES ARE AN INDISPENSABLE PART OF TODAY'S WORLD...


THE MAGNITUDE OF SUCH A LOSS WOULD SHAKE THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIETY...!
AND THAT WOULD RESULT IN A MASSIVE LOSS OF LABOR!
ANYWAY... IF DAYCARES DIDN'T EXIST...
ALL PARENTS IN THE WORLD WOULD BE UNABLE TO WORK...!

YOU COME TO REALIZE THAT CHILDCARE WORKERS ARE, IN A SENSE, THE AVENGERS WHO WILL NURTURE THAT FUTURE...!

FURTHERMORE, WHEN YOU CONSIDER THAT THESE CHILDREN WILL BE CONSTRUCTING THE WORLD OF THE FUTURE...


IN THAT CASE, YA SHOULD GO FOR IT.
B-BUT THERE'S A BIT OF A PROBLEM, YOU SEE...
Do your best!

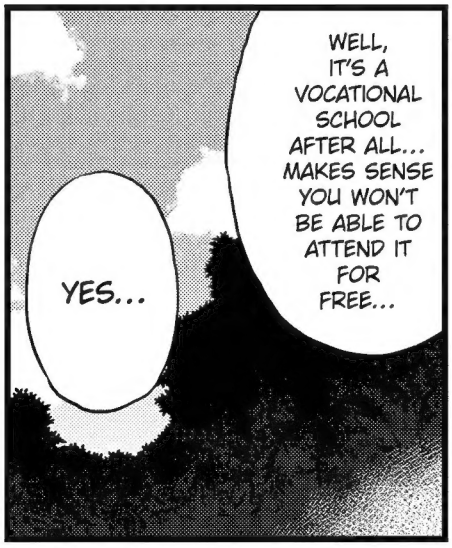
IT REALLY IMPRESSED ME, YOU KNOW...?! TO THINK THERE WAS SUCH A PRECIOUS JOB OUT THERE...!
IF THERE'S ONE THING I'VE LEARNED, IT'S THAT YOUR GRATITUDE FOR DAYCARES IS LIMITLESS.
YEAH, I GET IT...

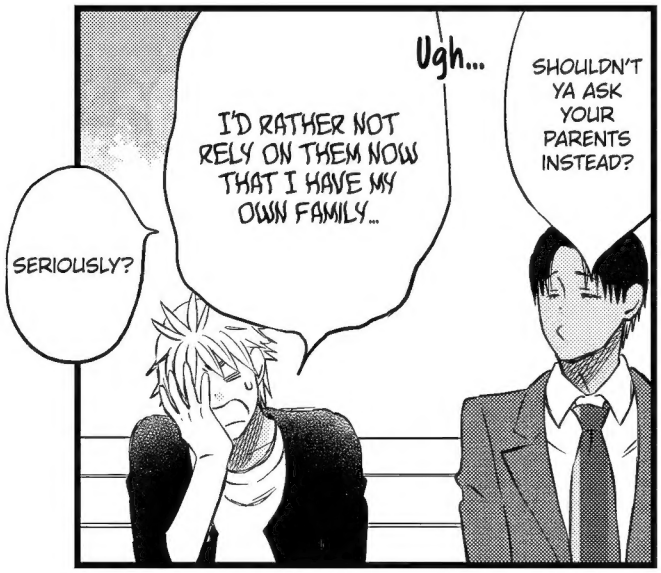
...
BUT THE TUITION FEES...

A VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, HUH?
IF I WANT TO WORK IN CHILDCARE, I NEED TO ATTEND A VOCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR TWO YEARS...
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME. JUST DO IT.
...

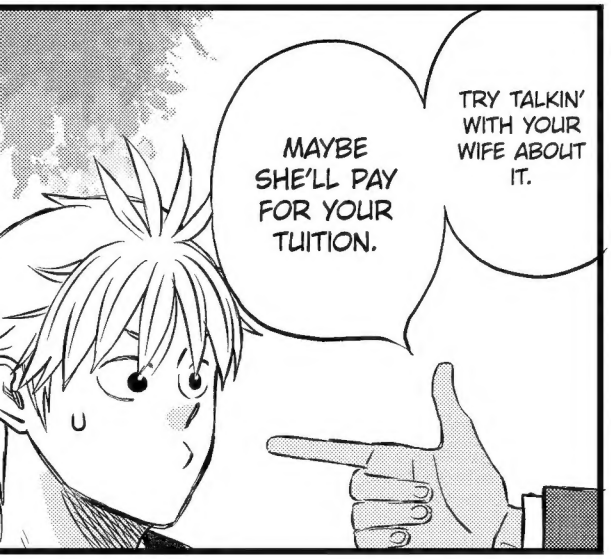
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY SAVINGS?
...I HAVEN'T REALLY SAVED ENOUGH MONEY TO COVER THE TUITION...

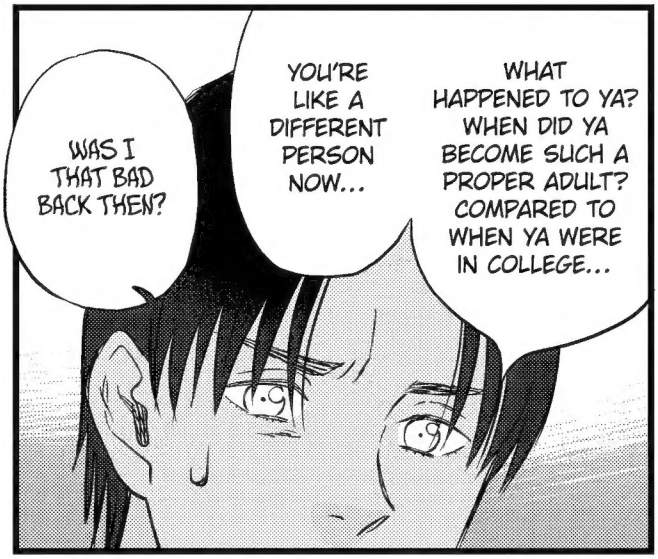
Hmm...


WELL, IT'S A VOCATIONAL SCHOOL AFTER ALL... MAKES SENSE YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO ATTEND IT FOR FREE...
YES...


SERIOUSLY?
I'D RATHER NOT RELY ON THEM NOW THAT I HAVE MY OWN FAMILY...
Ugh...
SHOULDN'T YA ASK YOUR PARENTS INSTEAD?

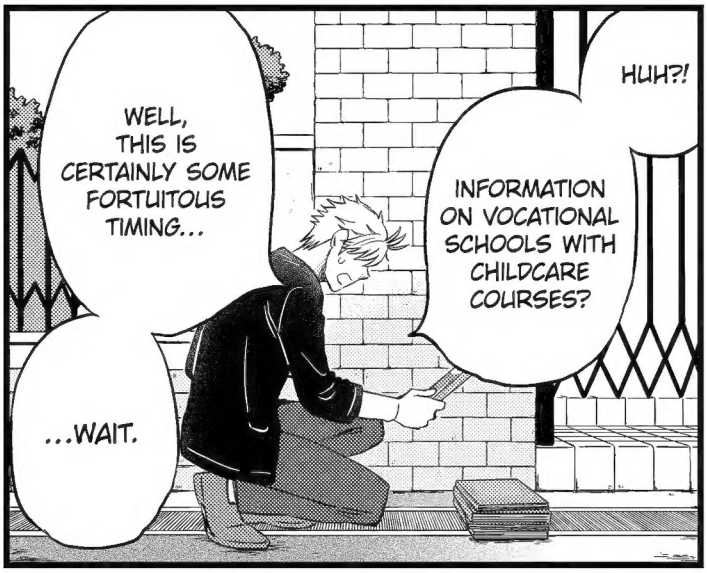
HMMM...
I WAS HOPING YOU COULD PERSUADE ME TO GIVE UP ON THIS IDEA AND CONVINCE ME TO LOOK FOR A JOB THAT I CAN DO RIGHT NOW.
THAT'S WHY I WANTED YOUR ADVICE.
Do you know anything good I could do?

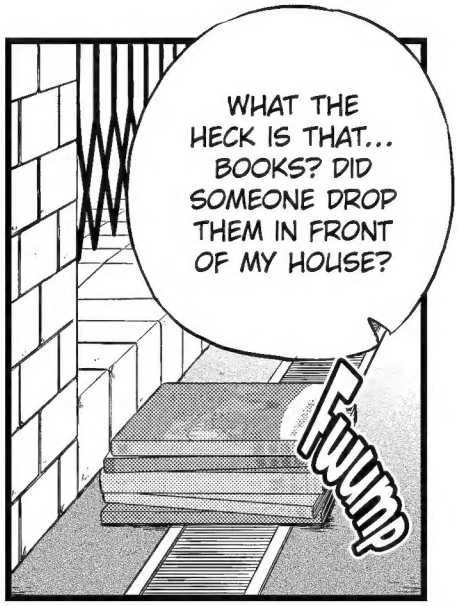

MAYBE SHE'LL PAY FOR YOUR TUITION.
TRY TALKIN' WITH YOUR WIFE ABOUT IT.

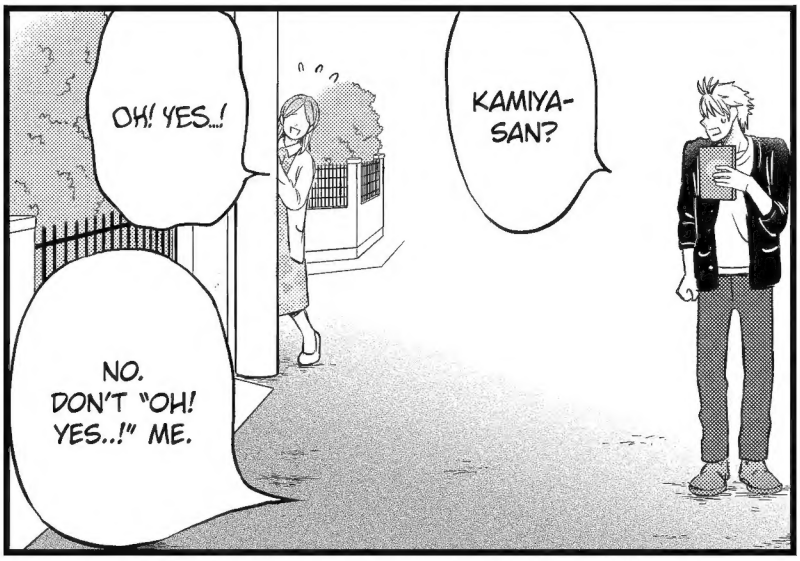

WAS I THAT BAD BACK THEN?
YOU'RE LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON NOW...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YA? WHEN DID YA BECOME SUCH A PROPER ADULT? COMPARED TO WHEN YA WERE IN COLLEGE...

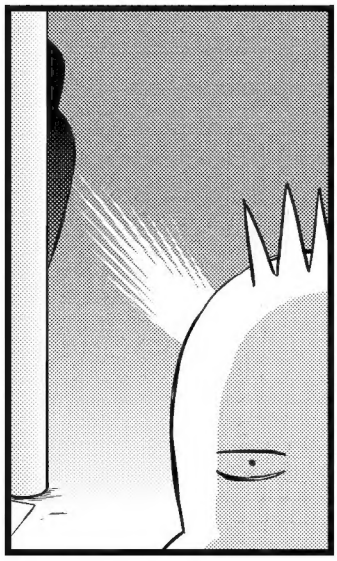
...HM?

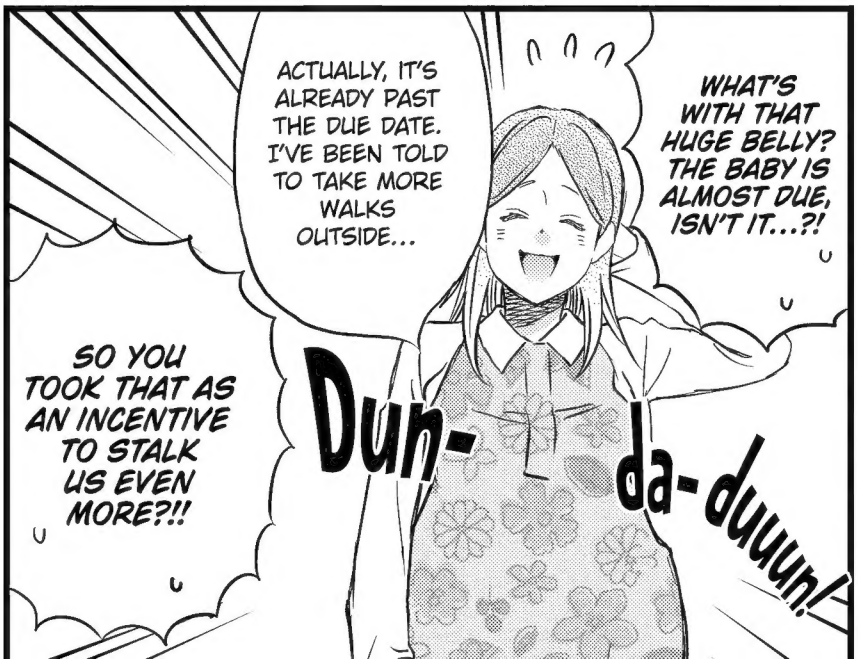
I'LL JUST QUIETLY GIVE UP AND LOOK FOR SOMETHING I CAN DO NOW.
HMM... NO, NO. I CAN'T REALLY ASK HER TO DO THAT...

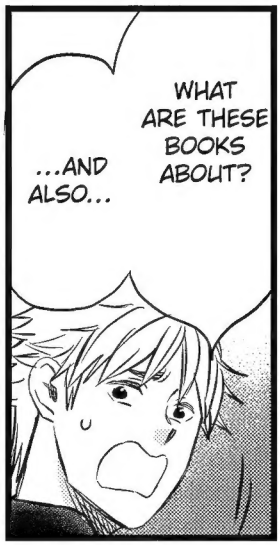

WELL, THIS IS CERTAINLY SOME FORTUITOUS TIMING...
...WAIT.
HUH?!
INFORMATION ON VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS WITH CHILDCARE COURSES?


WHAT THE HECK IS THAT... BOOKS? DID SOMEONE DROP THEM IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE?
FWUMP

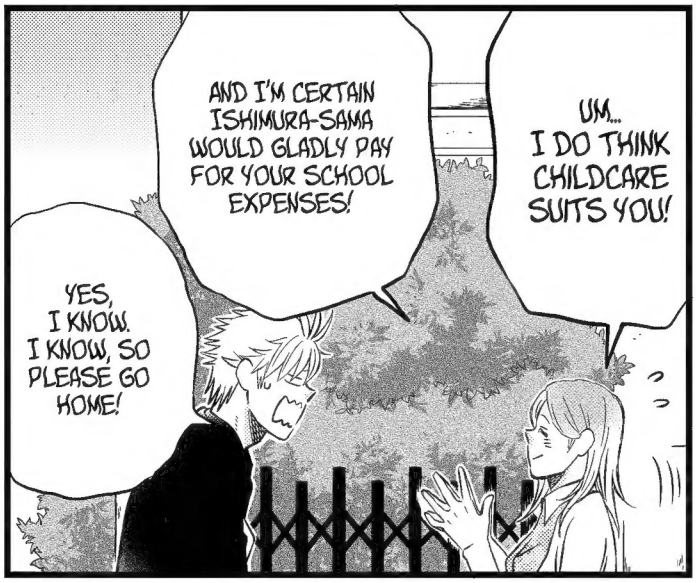

OH! YES...!
KAMIYA-SAN?
NO. DON'T "OH! YES..!" ME.




ACTUALLY, IT'S ALREADY PAST THE DUE DATE. I'VE BEEN TOLD TO TAKE MORE WALKS OUTSIDE...
WHAT'S WITH THAT HUGE BELLY? THE BABY IS ALMOST DUE, ISN'T IT...?!
SO YOU TOOK THAT AS AN INCENTIVE TO STALK US EVEN MORE?!!
Dun-da-duuun!

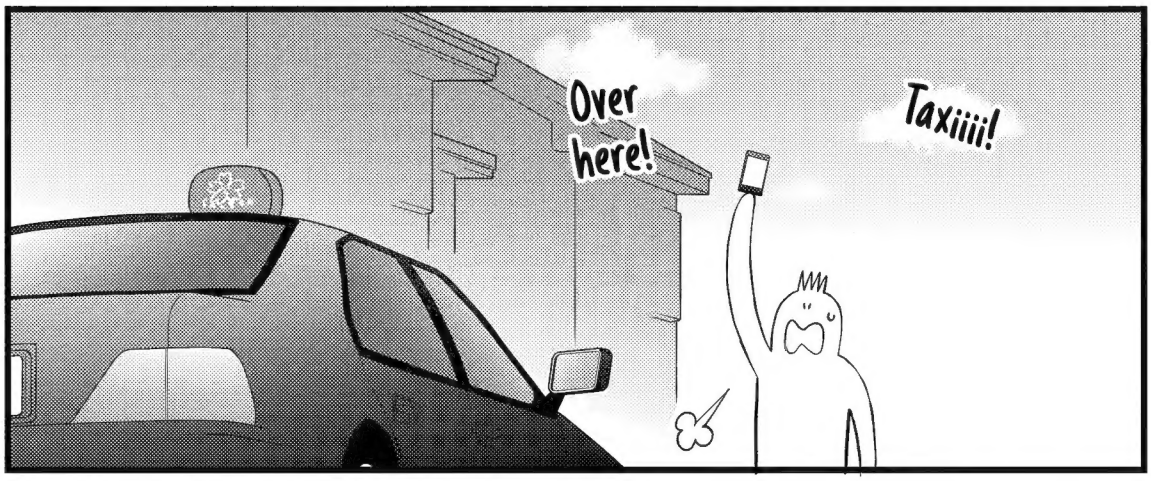

WHAT ARE THESE BOOKS ABOUT?
...AND ALSO...

HUH?! WHAT'S WRONG?!
...UGHH!
WAIT. NO WAY...


AND I'M CERTAIN ISHIMURA-SAMA WOULD GLADLY PAY FOR YOUR SCHOOL EXPENSES!
UM... I DO THINK CHILDCARE SUITS YOU!
YES, I KNOW. I KNOW, SO PLEASE GO HOME!

SERIOUSLY, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!!
ABOUT THE VOCATION SCHOOL... ABOUT THE TUITION FEES... YOU SHOULD CONSULT WITH HER...
PLEASE, KIRISHIMA-SAN... YOU MUST HAVE FAITH IN ISHIMURA-SAMA...
Oh, geez!
Haa!
Haa!

REALLY?! THE BABY IS COMING OUT?!!
Haa!
IT'S TIME...
Haa!


Over here!
Taxiiii!

SO, YOU WANT TO GO TO A VOCATIONAL SCHOOL TO GET YOUR CHILDCARE CERTIFICATION?

...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. JUST GO AHEAD WITH THE ENROLLMENT PROCESS.

WE CAN COVER THE TUITION FEES WITH MONEY FROM THE FAMILY BUDGET.

THE ISLAND COUPLE SURE LEFT A STRONG IMPRESSION ON YOU, HUH?

I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER IF THAT WILL JUST BE A PROBLEM FOR EVERYONE...

I KNOW I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO THE HOUSEWORK AS USUAL FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

I WANT TO DO THIS FOR MY FAMILY. THAT'S THE REASON I'M LOOKING FOR WORK, BUT...

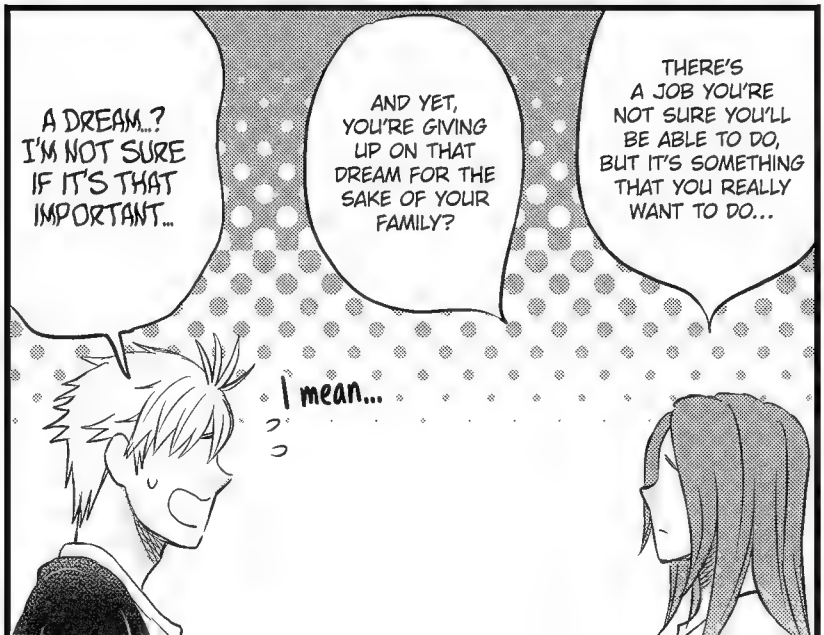
UM... BUT IT'LL TAKE TWO YEARS.

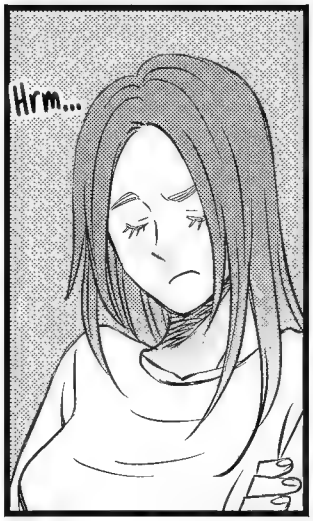
RIGHT NOW, IT'S ALSO TRUE THAT EVERYONE IS LIVING HAPPILY WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS.
SO I'M AFRAID THAT MY SELFISHNESS IS CAUSING ME TO START SOMETHING THAT WILL DISRUPT THE PEACE IN OUR LIVES.

HM? BUT IT'S A JOB YOU WANT TO DO, RIGHT?
YEAH, WELL... IT IS, BUT...

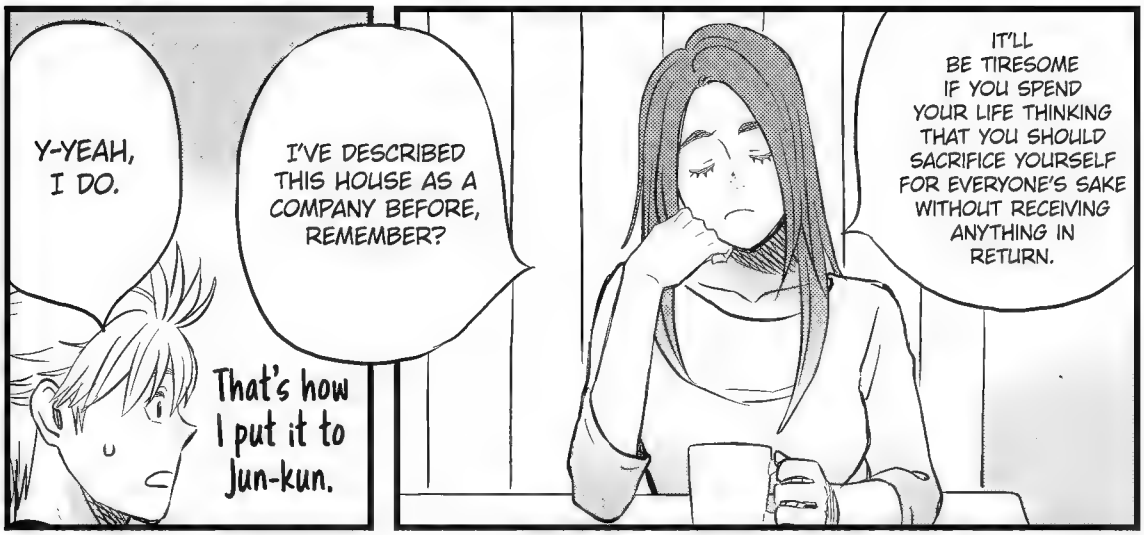
...

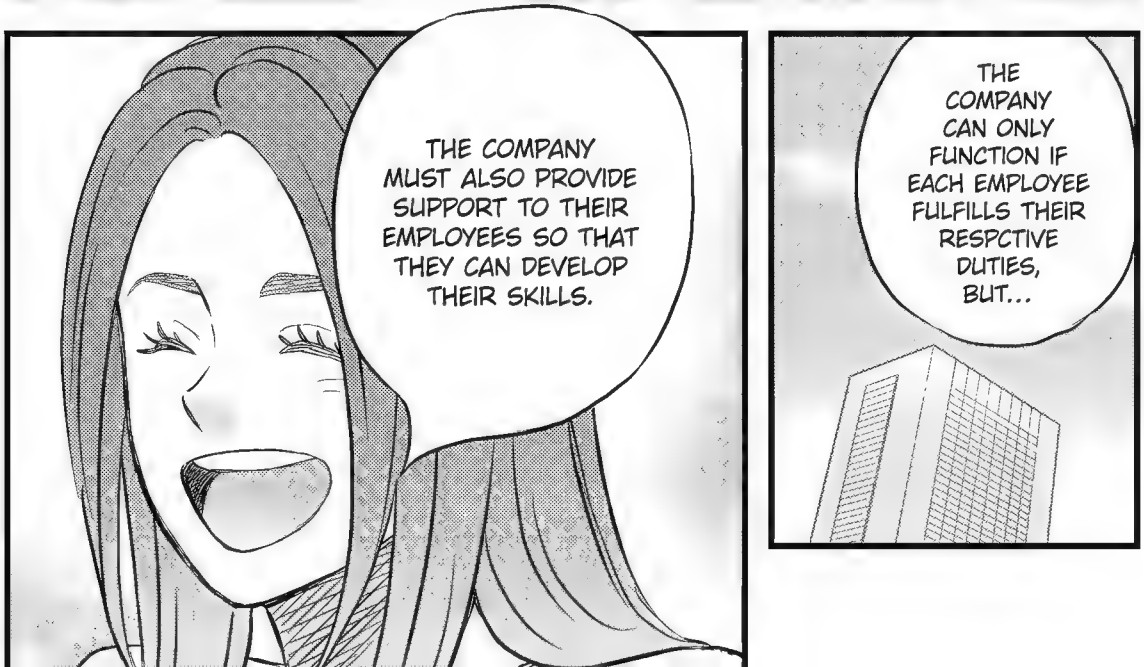
INSTEAD, I'LL LOOK FOR SOMETHING I CAN DO RIGHT NOW.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I WON'T GO TO SCHOOL.


A DREAM...? I'M NOT SURE IF IT'S THAT IMPORTANT...
AND YET, YOU'RE GIVING UP ON THAT DREAM FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR FAMILY?
THERE'S A JOB YOU'RE NOT SURE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO, BUT IT'S SOMETHING THAT YOU REALLY WANT TO DO...
I mean...

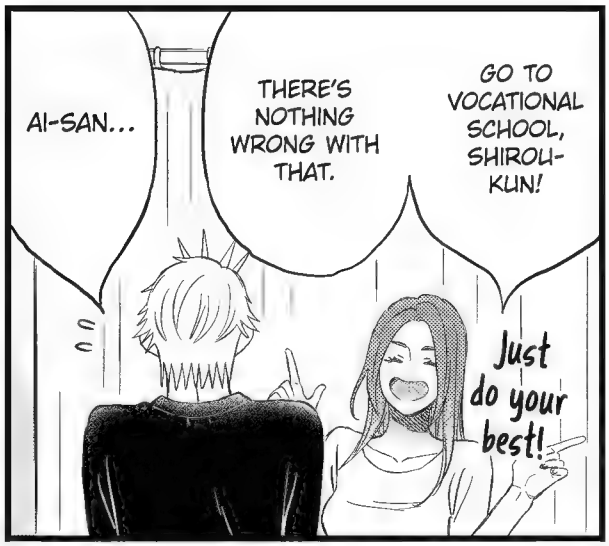

Hrm...

THEN THAT FAMILY HAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM.
IF A FAMILY IS WILLING TO SOLVE ITS PROBLEMS BY SACRIFICING ONE OF ITS MEMBERS...

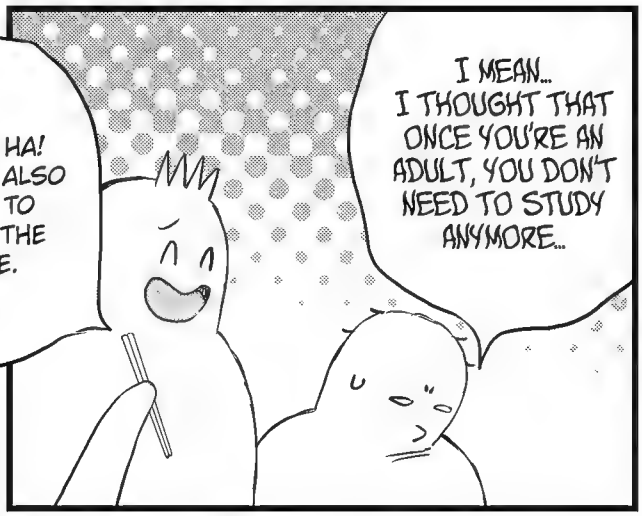

Y-YEAH, I DO.
I'VE DESCRIBED THIS HOUSE AS A COMPANY BEFORE, REMEMBER?
That's how I put it to Jun-kun.
IT'LL BE TIRESOME IF YOU SPEND YOUR LIFE THINKING THAT YOU SHOULD SACRIFICE YOURSELF FOR EVERYONE'S SAKE WITHOUT RECEIVING ANYTHING IN RETURN.


THE COMPANY MUST ALSO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THEIR EMPLOYEES SO THAT THEY CAN DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS.
THE COMPANY CAN ONLY FUNCTION IF EACH EMPLOYEE FULFILLS THEIR RESPCTIVE DUTIES, BUT...

YOU'RE GOING TO SCHOOL, FATHER?
THAT'S AMAZING!
WHAAAT? YOU THINK SO?


AI-SAN...
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT.
GO TO VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, SHIROU-KUN!
Just do your best!

Sip
Siiiip
HA HA HA! WELL, I ALSO USED TO THINK THE SAME.


I MEAN... I THOUGHT THAT ONCE YOU'RE AN ADULT, YOU DON'T NEED TO STUDY ANYMORE...

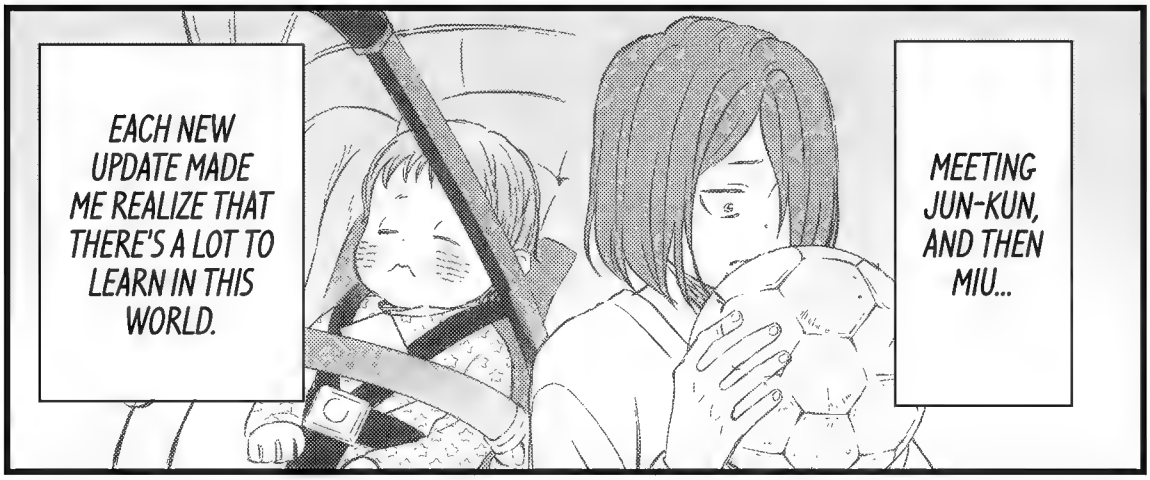
THAT'S RIGHT.

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE NEW THINGS TO LEARN FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE.

LIFE ISN'T JUST ABOUT THE BOOKS YOU'VE READ AND THE QUESTIONS YOU'VE SOLVED.

THE WORLD IS CONSTANTLY EVOLVING, AND EVERY TIME THERE'S SOMETHING NEW TO LEARN.

BROUGHT CLARITY TO MY PREVIOUSLY AIMLESS LIFE.
FOR ME, THE LEARNING I'VE DONE FOLLOWING MY MARRIAGE TO AI-SAN...


EACH NEW UPDATE MADE ME REALIZE THAT THERE'S A LOT TO LEARN IN THIS WORLD.
MEETING JUN-KUN, AND THEN MIU...

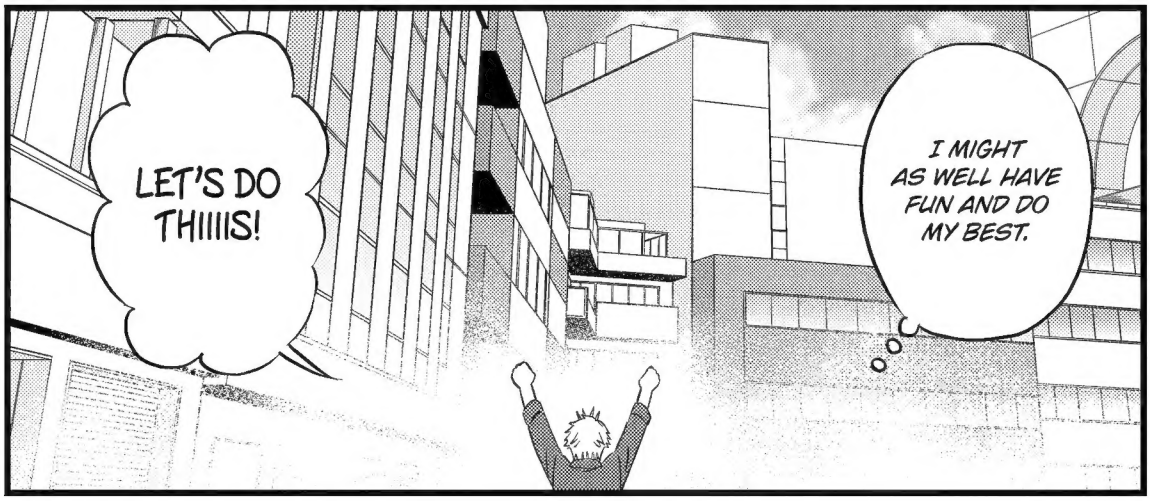
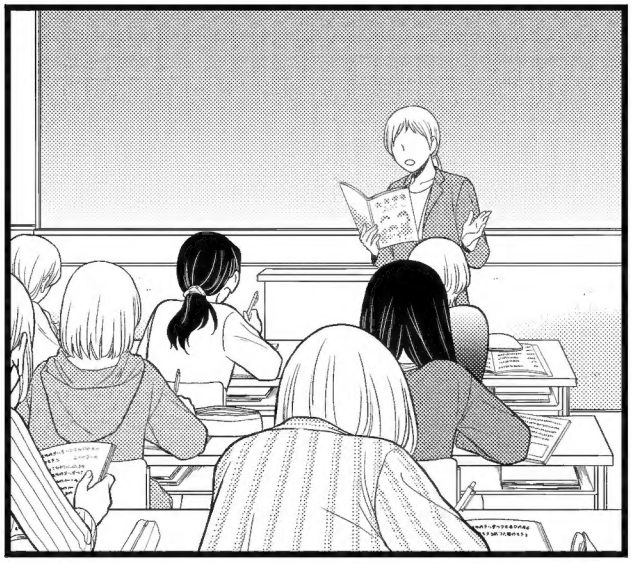
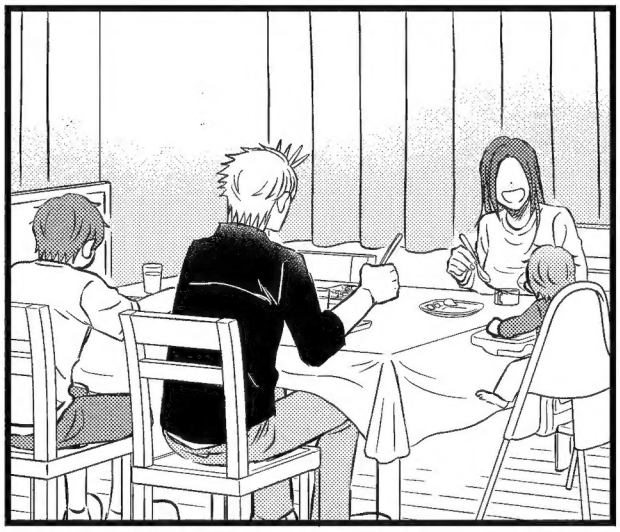
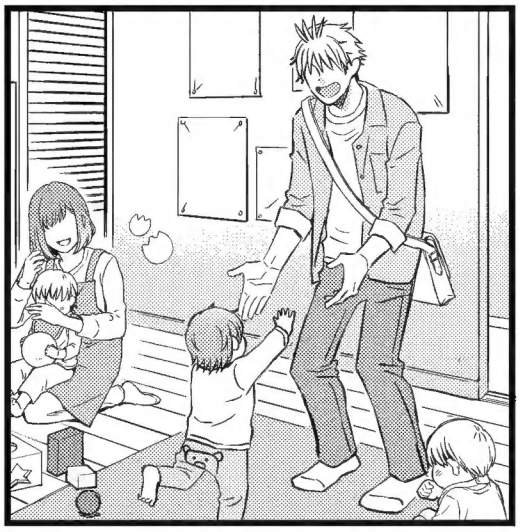
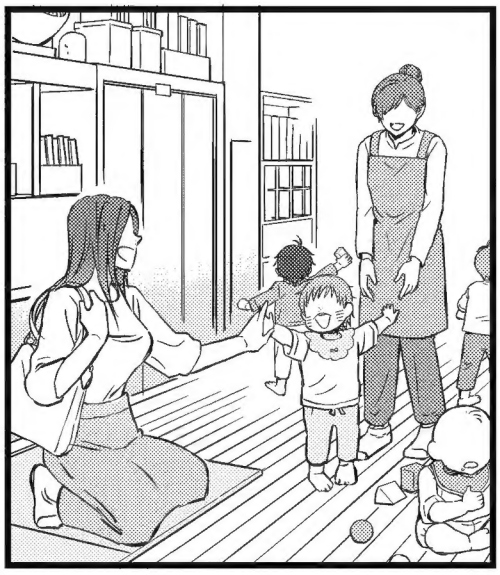
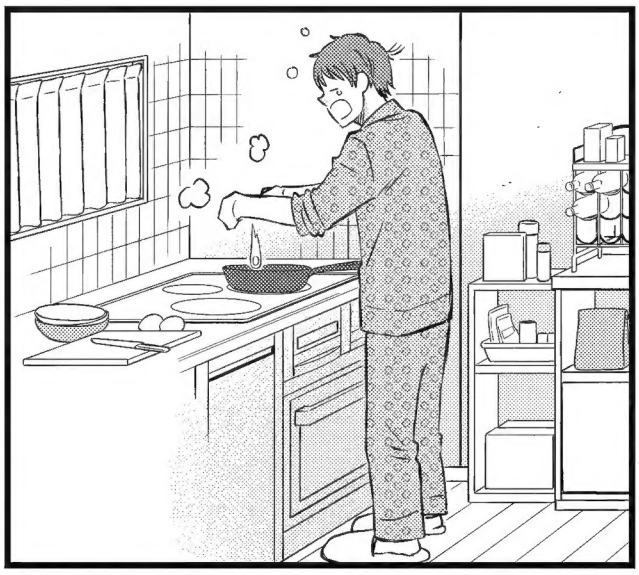
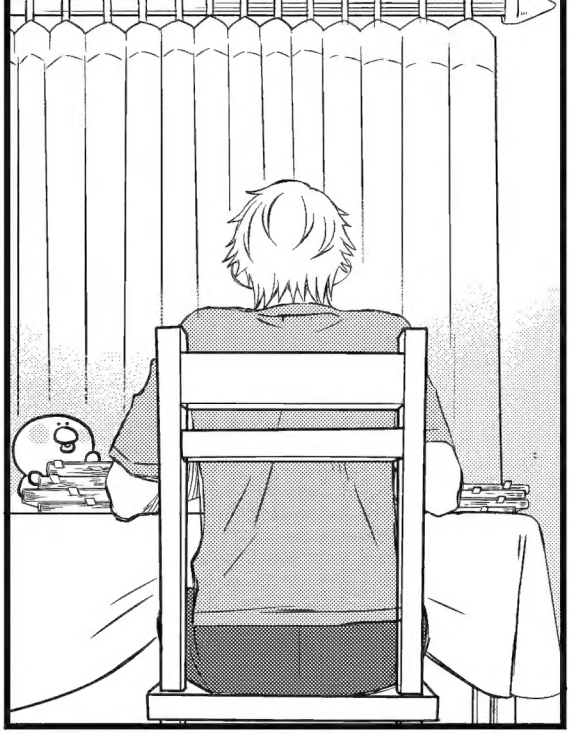
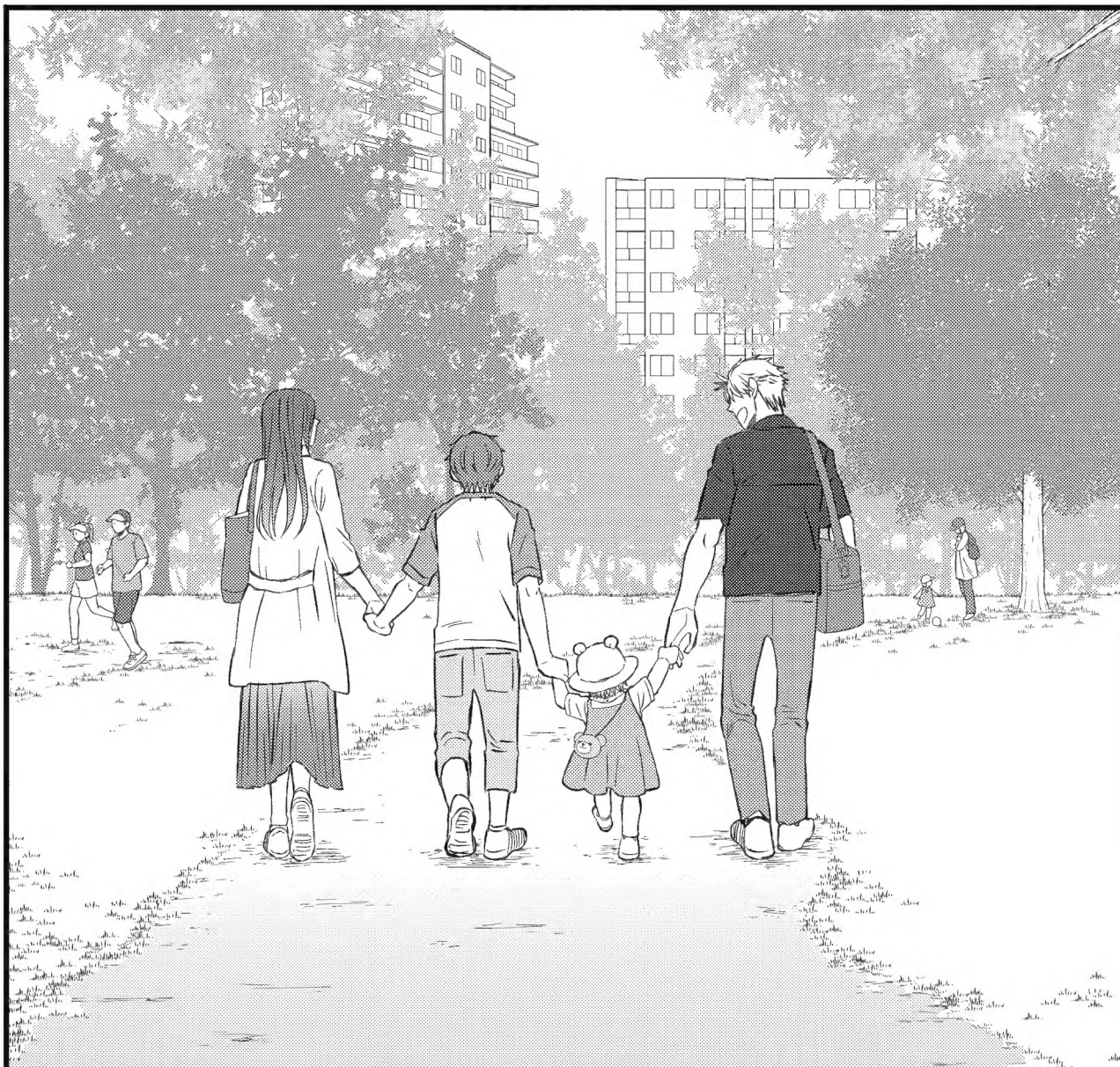
EVEN AT THE MOMENT OF DEATH, I'LL COME TO LEARN ITS MEANING.

I'M SURE...

I NEVER IMAGINED I'D HAVE TO STUDY UNTIL THE DAY I DIE...
BUT WELL, IF THAT'S HOW IT IS...

I NEED TO WORK REALLY HARD...
YIKES... I JUST PAID THE TUITION FEE.

BANK J


LET'S DO THIIIIS!
I MIGHT AS WELL HAVE FUN AND DO MY BEST.